

PUBLIC COMMENT SOUGHT ON TREE REPLANTING

The National Park Service proposes to remove and replant a stand of white pine and hemlock trees along Route 9 at the Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site. The project area runs along Rt. 9 from Crum Elbow Creek to the north exit of the park. The stand is about 11 acres in size and now contains roughly 1,000 trees. NPS seeks public input during the planning phase of the project.

The primary reason for this project is public safety. This stand of trees, planted beginning in 1906, poses a risk to traffic and overhead utility lines on Rt. 9. In recent years, 250 dead and hazard trees have already been removed by NPS.

In addition, the trees were originally intended by Frederick Vanderbilt to screen the estate from the busy highway. As the trees have matured and naturally shed their lower branches, they no longer serve as a visual screen.

A public information and scoping session will be held on Thursday, August 19 from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM at the Vanderbilt Visitor Center. An open house format will be used, and the public may arrive at any time. The public is invited to learn about the project and to share any ideas or concerns.

For further information contact David Hayes after August 9, 2010 at (845)-229-1521 or dave_hayes@nps.gov